



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

26165 Farmington Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 474-6170
www.farmington-pres.org

January 21, 2024

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Welcome / Greetings

Tom Neal

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Congregational Life

Tom Neal

Prelude

Rock of Ages

Thomas Hastings

*Call to Worship

Tom Neal

You call us,
Wanderer of seashores and sidewalks,
inviting us to sail out of our smug harbors
into the uncharted waters of faith
to wander off from our predictable paths to follow You
into the unpredictable footsteps of the kingdom;
to leave the comfort of our homes and accompany
You into the uncomfortable neighborhoods we usually avoid.

As we wait,
in our simple, sometimes crazy,
constantly uncertain lives,
speak to us, Spirit of Grace:
of that hope which is our anchor;

of that peace which is our rock;
of that grace which is our refuge.

~ from a worship order prepared by Rev. Bob Gibson for the London Conference of the United Church of Canada.

**Opening Hymn #157*

I Danced in the Morning

Sydney Carter

**1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.**

Refrain:

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

**2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.
They came with me and the dance went on. [Refrain]**

**3 I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. [Refrain]**

**4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. [Refrain]**

**5 They cut me down and I leapt up high.
I am the life that will never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. [Refrain]**

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

Rev. Geoffrey T. Piper

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:14-20

Tom Neal

New Revised Standard Version

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Anthem

How lovely are the Messengers
Chancel Choir

Felix Mendelssohn
ed. Malcolm Archer

Sermon

No more fish stories; let's go fishing!

Rev. Geoffrey T. Piper

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology

Rev. Geoffrey T. Piper

Collection of Prayer Cards

**Direct, control, suggest, this day,
in all I design, do, or say,
that all my powers, with all of their might,
might serve you both day and night.**

arr. Shari Fiore

Prayers of the People

Tom Neal

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Tom Neal

Leader: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.

All: We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

Leader: We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,

All: and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

Leader: We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts,

All: and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

Leader: We thank you also for those disappointments and failures

All: that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Leader: Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ;

All: for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Leader: Grant us the gift of your Spirit,

All: that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things.

Leader: We lift our hearts and our prayer to you, Heavenly Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together: in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together:

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.” We Follow God’s Word into the World

*Hymn of Sending# 438

Rock of Ages

Agustus M. Toplady

**1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.
Let the water and the blood
from thy wounded side which flowed
be of sin the double cure,
cleansing from guilt and make me pure.**

**2 Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law’s demands.
Could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone.
Thou must save, and thou alone.**

**3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
simply to thy cross I cling;**

naked, come to thee for dress,
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Benediction

Rev. Geoffrey T. Piper

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be amongst us and remain with us always. Amen.

Postlude

Dix

Craig Phillips

Please Welcome Rev. Geoffrey Piper, Today's Guest Preacher

The Rev. Geoffrey T. Piper retired from fulltime parish ministry in 2020 after 35 years in the U.S. and Canada. He and his wife, Leslie, (a church organist and choir director, began their ministry through the Anglican Church of Canada in remote fishing villages in northern Quebec. They have also served Episcopal parishes in Massachusetts, Michigan and Florida. They have three adult children and five grandchildren. Geoffrey enjoys trout fishing, woodworking, personal fitness, and spending time alongside the grandkids.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Tom Neal as today's liturgist. Laurel Scott will serve as liturgist on January 28th. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

Scam Alert!

The Craft Fair for First Presbyterian Church of Farmington has been notified that a scammer (Arielle Lizz Debra) is asking people to send money via Venmo to book a booth for the craft fair. **This is not us and we don't have Venmo set up.** Please don't send money to this person! First Presbyterian Church of Farmington only takes checks or cash only. Questions: info@Farmington-Pres.org.

Session Town Hall Meeting TODAY

Please join us in Knox Hall for the monthly town hall meeting today while you're enjoying your coffee and treats. There will be updates on the search for a Transitional Pastor and we'll share

results from the listening & training sessions and workshops held by our outside consultants. If you have any questions or concerns, let's talk about it.

First Pres Sailors Meeting on Sunday, Jan 28 – Please join us!

The Future Church Task Force regrouped in Nov/Dec and renamed our group as “First Pres Sailors” based on our reading of the book Sailboat Church by Joan S. Gray. We gleaned many ideas from the book and our discussions. We have formed a prayer group to pray for the future of our church and are beginning to work on our self-study (last done in 2015), which needs to be completed before we contract with a permanent pastor. Please join us and play an active role in the future direction of FPCF! **We'll meet in the Garden Parlor Room on Sunday, January 28, at 11:30 pm.** Everyone is welcome!

Annual Congregational Meeting Notice First Presbyterian Church Of Farmington-Sunday, February 4, 2023

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington will be held in Knox Fellowship Hall and via Zoom on Sunday, February 4, at 11:15 a.m. following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to review the 2023 annual reports of the boards, ministries, committees, and groups of the church, the 2023 financial reports and the 2024 budget. Information for joining the meeting via Zoom will be forthcoming. The 2023 annual report will be emailed to members who have signed up through the church website to electronically receive the FYI newsletter and other important church information. To sign up for the newsletter and electronic communications, simply go to www.farmington-pres.org. A limited number of printed copies of the 2023 Annual Report will be available at the Welcome Center on Sunday, January 28 and Sunday, February 4. Copies can also be obtained by calling the church office. A Town Hall will follow the meeting open to topics of interest to the Congregation.

Future Church Prayer Group Formed

It's the beginning of 2024 and FPCF is at a crossroads as we prepare ourselves to step into the future. We have much to pray for: a transitional pastor, a permanent pastor, the focus of our mission, God's plan for us as a church in this time and in this place. **The prayer group has formed and meets, in person, every Wednesday at noon, at the church, in the Garden Parlor Room (or another heated room).** If you are interested in joining us, please contact Colleen Tavor (cmtcounseling@gmail.com) to stay informed via email of any changes that may be needed.

FPCF is looking for legal counsel

From time to time, there are contracts or other documents to be reviewed to ensure everything is correct and all parties are covered. If there is anyone in the church willing to provide help in this area or if there are any recommendations, please contact the church office.

Electric Typewriter Needed

The church office is looking for an electric typewriter, the current one is starting to experience issues. This is used to update the official church registers. These are legal documents which are typed and not yet converted to digital.

Hospitality Time Schedule

You are invited to bring ONE food item on ONE Sunday each month. Your Sunday depends on the first letter of your last name. It would be greatly appreciated if you are also able to help with set-up or clean-up. Please note healthy options are welcome as well such as fruit, cheese & crackers, veggies etc. Here's the upcoming schedule:

January 21: Last names beginning E-K

January 28: Last names beginning L-R

February 4: Last names beginning S-Z

February 11: Last names beginning A-D



****Note:** On 1/11/2024, nurture committee invites you to gather for fellowship after worship where they will make and serve soup for the Super Bowl LVIII.

2024 Offering Envelopes

Those who have used numbered envelopes in 2023 will automatically receive envelopes for 2024, unless you inform us otherwise. If you have NOT used envelopes this year, but DO wish to have them for next year, please contact the church office at 248-474-6170 to make your request known. Numbered envelopes facilitate the speed and accuracy of the data entry process for our offering counters, so we do encourage you to use envelopes if you contribute manually on a regular basis. We also encourage the use of electronic debit. If you wish to automatically submit your pledge electronically from your bank account monthly, please call the church office to have the forms mailed to you. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (248) 474-6170.

FPCF's Shopping List for CARES

Have you picked up your CARES shopping list yet? Look for it in the pew backs or the Mission bulletin board. Take it with you to the store. The items on the list are those most needed by the guests at CARES.

COVID-19 or Flu Symptoms

Please be mindful if you have symptoms, stay home and take care of yourself and others.

Adult Bible Discussion – The Wired Word

Join our Bible discussion **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Library**. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. Sunday's Topic: Footprint of 'Lost' Cities Revealed in Amazon Rainforest. To get on the email list contact Tom Neal at ttneal@sbcglobal.net.

News from the Church Office

Office hours are as follows: **Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wednesday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** It is a good idea to call ahead if you need to come into the building. As a reminder please contact the church office via telephone at (248) 474-6170 or email at info@farmington-pres.org.

**First Presbyterian
Church Staff**

Ministers of the Church	Members of the Congregation
Pastoral Care Parish Associate	The Rev. Craig S. Aue
Minister of Music & Organist/Pianist	Shari Fiore-Bloom
Office Administrative Assistant	Carly Vivio
Office Assistant	Amanda Schreiber
AV Tech Intern	Jaiden Thomas



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